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Thomas, R. and R. Powell. 1994. *Typhlops schwartzi*.

Typhlops schwartzi Thomas

Typhlops lumbricalus: Cochran, 1924:174 (part) (not of Linnaeus, 1758:228).
Typhlops I. Subspecies A: Thomas, 1976:26.
Typhlops schwartzi Thomas, 1989:409. Type-locality, "1.5 km W Jayaco, La Vega Province, República Dominicana, 244 m." Type-specimen, University of Kansas Museum of Natural History (KU) 208752, an adult female collected by native collectors on 11 August 1973 (examined by RT).

• **Content.** No subspecies are recognized.

• **Definition.** *Typhlops schwartzi* is a large, stout blind snake characterized by (see Thomas, 1976 and 1989, for complete explanations of characters): (1) snout rounded; (2) rostral in dorsal aspect a narrow oval to parallel-sided (RW/RL 0.43-0.60), oval (mode), slightly flared on apex, labial margin slightly flared; (3) preocular subtriangular, broadly angled (50-80°), apex rounded, lower portion contacting only 3rd of upper labials; (4) ocular length about 2/3 height, sinuosity 0.16-0.07; (5) postnasal pattern divergent; (6) postocular single (strong mode), higher than long; (7) 1st parietal greatly extended laterally and blade-like (major axis transverse), extending along ocular to below level of eye; (8) 2nd parietal spanning 2 scale rows or absent; (9) TL to 326 mm; (10) TL/tail length in males 22-37, females 26-41; (11) TL/midbody diameter 23-38; (12) middorsal scales 237-282; (13) scale rows 20-18 with reduction occurring at about midbody (46-67% TL); (14) coloration extensive, dark brown dorsal pigmentation extending onto ventrolateral surfaces and fading onto venter, facial pigmentation dark and extensive, extending over sides of head onto ventrolateral surface, rostral pigmented over nearly all of its length; (15) rectal caecum present; (16) hemipenes expanded, apical region oblique in completely everted organs; (17) cranium broad, sides of parietals tapering very slightly; (18) premaxilla broad, about 40% of width across prefrontals, slightly convex, not protuberant, posteroventral edge transverse, making a right-angle juncture with narrow blade; (19) nasals without lateral angles; (20) septomaxilla with sliver of bone extending along lateral margin of naris, anterior portion tapered; (21) frontal-parietal suture transverse, slightly sinuous; (22) frontal with mostly unfused anterior ventral blade-like process; (23) optic foramen canalicular; (24) postorbital process of parietal prominent; (25) temporal ridge of parietal present; (26) lappet of prootic very prominent, in broad contact with sphenoid and parietal (apparently fused with tongue, tongue not visible), prominent secondary foramen isolated; (27) supraoccipitals unfused, in broad median contact; (28) exoccipitals not fused with prootics; (29) angular not sliver-like; (30) dorsal process of quadrate hooked; (31) atlantal hypapophysis prominent, bladelike, 5-6 total hypapophyses; (32) hyoid U-shaped, composed of 2 fused ceratobranchials, basihyal absent; (33) pelvic moieties in females absent or composed of 2 small rodlike ischia, in males prominent and hatchet-shaped with broad pubic process and more slender ilium and ishium; (34) eye moderate with narrow orbital space.

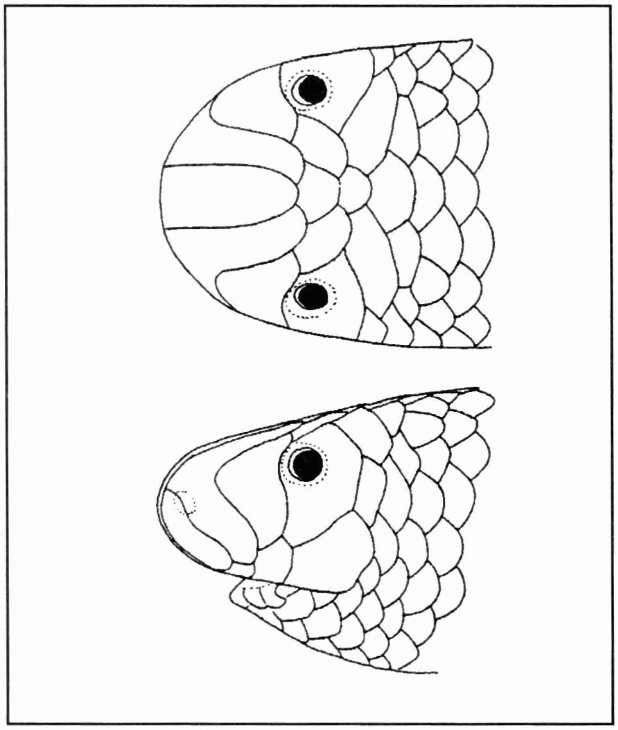
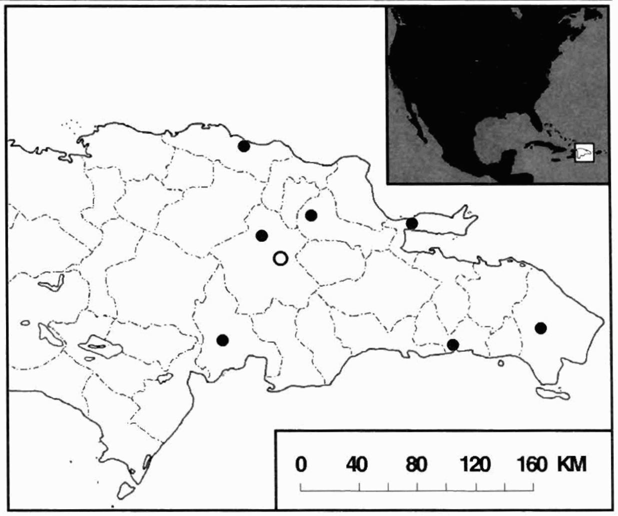


Figure. Head of *Typhlops schwartzi* (ASFS V27866) (from Thomas, 1989).



Map. Distribution of *Typhlops schwartzi* (modified from Schwartz and Henderson, 1991). The large open circle marks the type-locality, solid circles indicate other records. Estimation of range outline is precluded by the dearth of records combined with the broad distribution of this species.

• **Diagnosis.** This large, stout *Typhlops* (to 326 mm TL) may be distinguished from congeners by the following combination of characters: extensive pigmentation on the facial region and venter; no pigment collar; low to moderate number of middorsal scales (237-282); scale rows 20 reducing to 18 near midbody; rostral a narrow oval or parallel-sided, extending posteriorly to level of eyes; postnasal pattern divergent; preocular contacting only 3rd of supralabials, broadly angled and round apically, upper and lower sutures with postnasal not strongly curved; parietals single, greatly extended laterally and shorter than wide, with blade-like extension ventrad along posterior edge of ocular to the level of the lower edge of eye; postoculars single, high and short; prominent blade-like atlantal hypapophyses; pelvic moieties with ilium, ischium, and pubis fused and hatchet-shaped. Large size, greatly expanded first parietals, and single postoculars are good field recognition characters.

• **Descriptions.** In addition to the original of Thomas (1989), Thomas (1976) (as *Typhlops* I. Subspecies A) and Schwartz and Henderson (1991) provided descriptions of this species.

• **Illustrations.** Thomas (1976 [as *Typhlops* I. Subspecies A], 1989) provided line drawings of the head, septomaxilla, and cranium. Cochran (1941) (as *T. lumbricalis*) and Thomas (1989) included line drawings of the head, and the latter also provided a ventral view of the cranium.

• **Distribution.** The species is found in scattered localities throughout eastern Hispaniola. The range has been illustrated by Thomas (1976 [as *Typhlops* I. Subspecies A], 1989) and Schwartz and Henderson (1991). The species is largely an inhabitant of mesic regions.

• **Fossil Record.** None.

• **Pertinent Literature.** In addition to the original description of Thomas (1989), in which he discussed relationships among Antillean congeners, Cochran (1924, 1941), Richmond (1964), and Thomas (1965) made references to this species as *Typhlops lumbricalis*. Thomas (1976, as *Typhlops* I. Subspecies A) and Schwartz and Henderson (1991) included this species in their treatments of Antillean *Typhlops* and the West Indian herpetofauna, respectively. SEA/DVS (1990) provided an index to habitats in the Dominican Republic (as *T. lumbricalis*).

• **Etymology.** The name *schwartzi* is a patronym honoring Albert Schwartz.

• **Comment.** Additional references to this species may be buried in literature pertaining to *Typhlops lumbricalis*.

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